

# Plant Press

Finding Vegetative  
Solutions for  
Conservation  
Problems



USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

## Changing of the Guard



Gary Fine Manger of the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center retired January 3rd, 2006 after 28 years of service. Gary graduated with a BS degree in Agriculture with a major in Forestry and Wildlife from Louisiana State University in 1977. He served in the United State Navy from October 1968 to October 1972 and was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. He began his Federal civilian service career in the Soil Conservation Service (today's Natural Resources Conservation Service) in Oklahoma as a soil conservationist in September 1978.

In September 1982, Gary was selected for a District Conservationist position in the Newkirk Field Office which had a demonstration / research farm. Gary found his true passion November 1984, when he was selected for the Plant Materials Center (PMC) Assistant Manager in Kansas and subsequently the PMC Manager in 1986.

In 1991, Louisiana selected Gary for the PMC manager in Golden Meadow, Louisiana. Gary began his duties in Louisiana by building the newly formed PMC. The focus of the Plant Materials Center is to develop plant materials and technology for wetland and coastal restoration in an effort to address coastal wetland habitat loss issues.

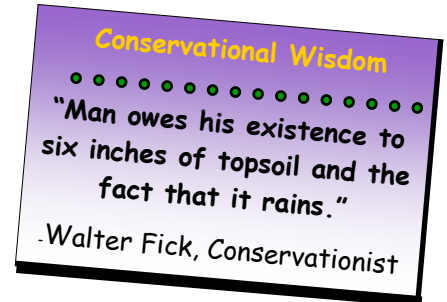
Gary has released six conservation plants developed by the Golden Meadow PMC and has developed an extensive network of partnerships that have strengthened and enriched the plant materials program throughout the coastal zone. Through Gary's management, many initiatives have been developed to support the efforts of preserving, protecting and restoring the fragile estuary system.

Scott Edwards, Plant Materials Specialist, will be serving as acting manager until the new manager is hired. Scott will be at the PMC three days a week or you can reach him at 318-542-2010. The vacancy announcement for the new manager is open until February 10 and can be found at:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=38188926>

### The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

*We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.*



**Volume 4: Issue 1  
Winter 2006**

### PMC Staff

Scott Edwards, Acting Manager  
[Scott.edwards@la.usda.gov](mailto:Scott.edwards@la.usda.gov)

Julie Lamphere  
Horticulturist

Garret Thomassie,  
Soil Conservationist

Mark Felarise  
Biological Science Technician

Alexis Luke  
Office Automation Assistant

Chera Kee Trosclair  
Biological Science Aid

Dawn Bagala  
Biological Science Aid

Shaun Harris  
Biological Science Aid

Scott Edwards,  
Plant Materials Specialist  
Alexandria, Louisiana



If you would like more information call us at (985) 475-5280 or visit our web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/lapmc>

## Please Release Me, Let Me Grow...

If the Golden Meadow PMC was unknown to anyone in local natural resources conservation prior to 2005, that may certainly be changing. Last year's merciless weather events in the southeastern U.S. have highlighted the need for increased conservation plant material. Now more than ever, there is a huge call for more vegetative solutions for wetland, marsh and beach erosion and restoration. The GMPMC has been fielding numerous contacts from folks (public, private and otherwise) wanting to know more about the plants that we work with. Unfortunately, many of our commercial growers and other area researchers have suffered great plant inventory losses from the recent storms, but we are working to assist them by providing foundation material.

Since 1994, the GMPMC has released a variety of native plant selections for conservation uses. All materials listed below are available for commercial production.

- \*Brazoria seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*)
- \*Caminada sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*)
- \*Fourchon bitter panicum (*Panicum amarum*)
- \*\*'Gulf Coast' marshhay cordgrass (*Spartina patens*)
- \*Pelican black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*)
- \*\*'Vermilion' smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*)



Clockwise from top left: Pelican black mangrove, Caminada sea oats, 'Vermilion' smooth cordgrass and 'Gulf Coast' marshhay cordgrass.



## Coastal Plants Make the Art Show

New Orleans artist Delaina LeBlanc is a pretty impressive creator of images that remind of us of our vanishing marshes and coastline. Her work was recently showcased at the Fort Isabel Gallery in Covington, LA, a fun 30 minute drive across Lake Ponchartrain from the Crescent City. When Delaina called and requested the use of some of our plants for her display, we were delighted to oblige her. We donated a few pots of plants (yaupon, black needlerush, live oak and more), she made botanically correct labels and credited the GMPMC. In doing this, she raised awareness of the important plants that hold habitats together and she also introduced the art crowd to the existence of the GMPMC and our work. Thanks Delaina!

## Conservation Corner



Did you know that you can save over \$500 per year by simply changing out a dozen standard light bulbs? One company's energy-saving, spiral-type bulb puts out a typical 60 watts, but uses only 14 watts to do it. Based on four hours of use per day, at \$0.10 per kWh, the savings over a year can really add up. While these special little power savers do initially cost a bit more, it can still pay to try them. They reportedly last 10 times longer than conventional bulbs and at least one brand is guaranteed to last for seven years. Not only can you make a difference in your bank account, but you can also help natural resources conservation in another small way. It all adds up and just makes good sense.

We're on the Web!

[www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov)